



The Voice of Westminster

We are a servant church, nurturing each other's spiritual journey and personal gifts. All are welcome!

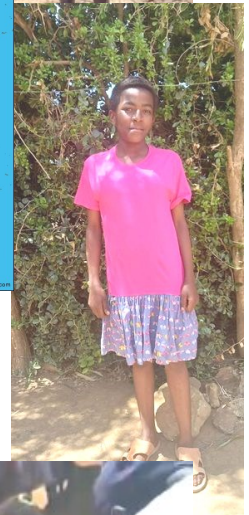
February 2023

A World Away, But Not So Far

Veronica Ndungu, her daughter, Susan Kibui and son, JoJo Kibui, have returned from a visit to Kenya. Westminster was fortunate to have the faith and resources to help build a classroom, provide clothing including 78 pairs of shoes and 70 school uniforms for students, and soccer balls and other "fun" items for the kids. Additional photos and videos are on our website at crwpc.org/kenya-mission-project



A blessed send-off...Children line up to see Veronica at her old school...Brightly colored clothes from WPC...Shoes, too...Soccer balls for recreation and a joyous song and dancing from Kenyan women!



God be with you 'til we meet again!



A Lenten Journey Like None Other

We have had the opportunity to worship already twice in January with First Presbyterian, due to the unexpected pipe burst that occurred in their building. We look forward to our two services together in February as outlined in last month's newsletter: February 12 at First Presbyterian Church and February 19 at Westminster, with joint choirs at each service. Then, we anticipate a Lenten Journey that promises further collaboration, making it a unique opportunity for both congregations.

On Ash Wednesday, February 22 at 6:30 p.m., we will start our Lenten Journey together, with a unique service here at Westminster. We have already been invited to join one of the Lenten Small Groups they will be hosting, which have already been publicized. We are currently discussing what Maundy Thursday and Good Friday might look like, if First Presbyterian hosted Maundy Thursday and we hosted Good Friday.

During our Sundays of Lent we will be exploring various encounters Jesus had with people, to see what we might apply to our current situation. Obviously, the depth and breadth of our experience of this season (leading up to Easter) will be determined by how many of these opportunities we take advantage of. Join this exciting adventure!

Blessings,

Pastor Roger

Session Notes for January Meeting

Westminster's Session met for a regular meeting on Jan. 17 at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Roger read research regarding church growth and it was discussed. Session then took action on the following:

- Approved hiring Lisa Freeman as office manager/administrative assistant, as recommended by the Personnel Committee.
- Also from Personnel: A.J. Plummer will serve as Interim Music Director, directing choir and leading the praise band, along with planning music for worship and special events. David and Deb Liljedahl will serve as choir accompanists and pianists for worship.
- By consensus, Session decided to move the Annual Meeting from the FLC to the Sanctuary due to concerns that members might leave rather than go to the FLC.

The meeting was adjourned. Barb Read gave the closing prayer.

Staff Additions and Changes

Westminster's office staff is going through a few changes. Lisa Freeman has joined our staff part time (25 hours per week) to take care of administrative duties and assist Pastor Roger where needed. Once she is trained, Gale Smetana will continue as Communications Coordinator, but will cut back to 15 hours per week. Office schedules are still being worked out.

In addition, A.J. Plummer has taken over duties as Interim Music Director. Besides coordinating the Praise Band, he will now direct the Chancel Choir and help plan music for worship.

Finally, David and Deb Liljedahl will serve as accompanists for the choir and the congregation.

We greatly appreciate the willingness of everyone to serve Westminster!

Deacons Serve Up Comfort With Tasty Meals

The Westminster Meal Ministry is active and providing meals for several members. Nine dedicated cooks are preparing meals (Any men want to join the group?). If you know of anyone needing a meal, please contact Barb Mumford at bemumford@q.com or 319-361-2580 and she will get in touch with one of the preparers. You might want to ask the person you are suggesting if they would like a meal and a convenient time. Let's keep this ministry going.

Deacon Bible Trivia



What city mentioned in the Book of Revelation is also the name of an American city?

submitted by Glenn Lane

Answer on p. 6

LENTEN STUDY GROUPS WITH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

The Lenten season (Feb. 22 – Apr. 9) is just around the corner. This year, we plan to form small groups with First Presbyterian members. Below you will find a list of resources for the Lenten study. Take some time to explore these resources and maybe even find a friend who would be willing to sign up with you for the same study.

If you and a friend would be interested in co-facilitating/hosting a small group, we are looking for leaders, too. We will continue to have a signup sheet in the Large Parlor after worship.

Music in Worship (DVD)

"Singing the Unsung" with John Bell is a video series inviting participants to think deeply about the role of music in the corporate worship of God. Several songs, both new and old will be introduced as we explore why we sing, what we sing, how we sing, and what singing has to do with the gospel and the global church. To learn more, visit: <https://livingthequestions.com/product/singing-the-unsung/>.

Christian Theology (Insight)

"Book of Confessions: Study Edition," the 2017 edition. The creeds, catechisms, and confessional statements of the Presbyterian Church (USA) tell us something about who we are, where we have come from, and what we believe. Join Pastor Heather Hayes and retired pastor Jim Stewart, as we learn about these statements of faith, their history, and what they might mean for us today.

Spiritual Practices Christian Formation (book)

"Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life" by Marjorie J. Thompson. Thompson artfully introduces the reader to eight spiritual exercises, while giving specific examples of how to put them into practice. Spiritual practices include: Bible reading, prayer, corporate worship, fasting, self-examination, hospitality, Sabbath-keeping, and developing a rule of life. (We will be using the 2014 Newly Revised Edition.)

Racism Truth and Reconciliation (book)

"The Color of Compromise" by Jemar Tisby. Both enlightening and compelling, telling a history we either ignore or just don't know. Equal parts painful and inspirational, it details how the American church has helped create and maintain racist ideas and practices. You will be guided in thinking through concrete solutions for improved race relations and a racially inclusive church.

Hunger, Poverty, and Reform (book)

"Same Kind of Different as Me" by Ron Hall & Denver Moore. A tale told in two unique voices, "Same Kind of Different as Me" weaves two completely different life experiences into one common journey. Explore the experience of poverty through one man's life story. More descriptive than proscriptive, readers are invited to reflect on their own assumptions and connections with others.

We hope you will consider these topics and be a part of this opportunity to learn more with friends here and at First Presbyterian Church.

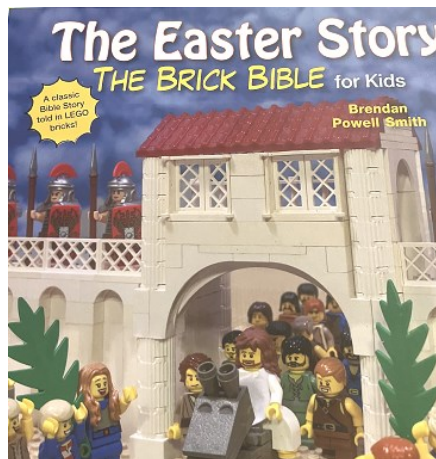
Church Food For Thought

In Session Notes, we noted that the devotions for the January Session meeting focused on research into Future Church Trends by Carey Nieuwhof. The material generated nearly an hour of discussion among Session members.

Whether you agree or disagree, the research is interesting. Session members were asked to select those trends they see at Westminster. What do you think?

1. The Boomer Church Will Decline and (Eventually) Disappear
2. Open Pastors Will Reach An Open Generation (Gen Z)
3. The Line Between Digital and In-Person Will Blur Even More
4. Churches That Embrace Online Ministry Will Start Seeing Results
5. The Purpose of the Weekend Sermon Will Shift From An Attraction to An Anchor
6. Content Curation Will Matter as Much as Content Creation
7. The Volunteer Crisis Will Move From Acute to Chronic
8. Pastoral Burnout will Stabilize As Pastors Embrace Their New Church

Some of these need little further explanation however, for additional information, you can visit the author's blog at <https://careynieuwhof.com/future-church-trends/>



Sunday School Kids to Study Brick Bible

Westminster's Sunday School kids will have lots of interactive learning this spring semester as they study the last weeks of Jesus on this Earth. What makes the study unique will be the use of "The Brick Bible for Kids" by Brandon Powell Smith.

Many of the stories will involve using Legos to build the stories. We know our students love Legos.



February Birthdays

Tamene Gelashe	February 4
Robert Ferguson	February 6
Lois Kahler	February 6
Catharine Johnson	February 7
Anne Bluder	February 14
James McWhinney	February 15
Patti Horton	February 16
Ruth Chipokas	February 17
Ruth Nash	February 17
Dale Crosier	February 18
Claudia Warfel	February 18
Jeanne Pinckney	February 21

Meme of the Month



The Month of February Thank You Volunteers!

Liturgists

Feb. 5—Jan Walton

Feb. 12—(Worship at FPC)

Feb. 19—Heather Wagner

Feb. 26—Pam Richardson

Greeters (at the Front Door)

Feb. 5—Jim Fine

Feb. 12—(Worship at FPC)

Feb. 19—Brian Read

Feb. 26—Terry Perkins

If you are unable to cover your Sunday, please make arrangements with a substitute. Thank you!

Bible Trivia Answer for the month:

What city mentioned in the Book of Revelation is also the name of an American city?

Answer: Philadelphia

WPC Calendar | February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			¹ 1 st Day-Black History Month 7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group 9:30 a.m. – Prayer Shawl Ministry	² 6 p.m. Beacon of Light	³ Church Closed	⁴ Church Closed 10 a.m. – Swahili Pentecostal Meet 4 p.m. – Beacon of Light Marriage Retreat - FLC
⁵ Communion Sunday 8 a.m. – Breakfast 9 a.m. - Choir 9 a.m. Christian Ed 10 a.m. – Worship 1:30 p.m. – Swahili Pentecostal Meet	⁶ 11 a.m. Bridge Club 7 p.m. AA-Old Dining	⁷ 2:30 p.m.-5 p.m. – L&F Pantry 6 p.m. – Beacon of Light Housing Initiative	⁸ 7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group 7-8:30 p.m. Choir Practice @ First Presbyterian	⁹ 9:30 a.m. – Soul Sisters 1 p.m. Personnel Committee 6 p.m. Beacon of Light	¹⁰ Church Closed	¹¹ Church Closed 10 a.m. NA Valentine Dinner 10 a.m. – Swahili Pentecostal Meet
¹² Worship at First Pres. 9 a.m. – Christian Ed 10 a.m. – Worship @ First Pres 1:30 p.m. – Swahili Pentecostal	¹³ 11 a.m. Bridge 1 p.m. Property Comm Mission Committee 7 p.m. AA	¹⁴ Valentine's Day ♥ 2:30 p.m.-5 p.m. – L&F Pantry 6 p.m. – Beacon of Light Housing Initiative	¹⁵ 7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group 9:30 a.m. – Prayer Shawl Ministry 7-8:30 p.m. Choir at WPC with First Pres.	¹⁶ 7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group 9:30 a.m. – Prayer Shawl Ministry 7 p.m. Choir	¹⁷ Church Closed	¹⁸ Church Closed 10 a.m.- Swahili Pentecostal Meet
¹⁹ 8 a.m. Breakfast 9 a.m. - Choir 9 a.m. – Christian Ed 10 a.m. – Worship 1:30 p.m. – Swahili Pentecostal	²⁰ Presidents Day 11 a.m. Bridge Club 4:30 p.m. Finance 7 p.m. AA	²¹ 2:30 p.m.-5 p.m. – L&F Pantry 6 p.m. – Beacon of Light Housing Initiative	²² 7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast Group Ash Wednesday Service – 6:30 p.m. WPC and First Pres Choirs sing.	²³ 9:30 a.m. – Soul Sisters 6 p.m. - Beacon of Light	²⁴ Church Closed	²⁵ Church Closed 10 a.m.- Swahili Pentecostal Meet
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Please visit www.crwpc.org/calendar to stay informed of changes to this month's calendar.

Westminster Presbyterian Church
1285 Third Avenue SE
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Return Service Requested

The Voice of Westminster
February 2023

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sunday Worship

9 a.m. Christian Education
10 a.m.—Sanctuary

We livestream on our YouTube Channel & Facebook Page

Visit us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter or at www.crwpc.org

Phone: 319-366-7185

Church Staff

Pastor, Roger D. Grandia
Communications Coordinator
Gale Smetana
Office Manager, Lisa Freeman
Interim Music Director, A.J. Plummer
Bookkeeper, Tina Mueller
Nursery Attendant, Lindsay Meade

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